

Speaker whom we had the pleasure to deal with.

We arrived here for our orientation, quite disoriented and needing a lot of orientation; and we found Dean to be a calm, knowledgeable mentor. He was a guide, he was kind, he was compassionate, and he was smart.

As I began to help organize the Democratic new Members into what would become the class of 2006, it was Dean who was the go-to guy for that effort. He is a consummate professional of integrity, dedication, kindness, and wisdom. And we wish him well in his new life. We will miss him.

Dean, thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. This may well, Mr. Speaker, turn into a bit of a pile-on. There were a lot of new Members in the class, and Dean Aguillen was the person that greeted us. And if there was one person that we met who seemed to have worked harder than the Speaker, it was Dean.

And I remember every single one of us, as new Members, being anxious about what our place was going to be, how to find our way. We were very anxious about committee assignments, about how you become an effective and contributing Member of the House. And, Dean, you were terrific in just giving us calm advice, getting us together to work together, giving us some reassurance that we needed as new Members of Congress, that, in fact, it wasn't an accident that we were elected, and helped all of us find our way. And you've been the same way all of the time that we have been here.

In politics so much of the interactions that we have are transactional, and all of us all of the time are trying to make them a bit more than that. And, Dean, you really helped provide the glue that made this class such a memorable experience for all of us who are Members of it.

I thank you for the wonderful contribution you made to me and to all of us in our entry into the United States Congress.

#### IN APPRECIATION TO DEAN AGUILLEN

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I too am here to give a heartfelt thank you to Dean. You're going to hear several colleagues talk about him.

When I came to this institution, I came directly from the public school classroom. And the learning curve was very steep. And every step of that way, Dean was right there to help us. He is someone who understood this institution. He is someone who was willing to give his knowledge. And he was here, Mr. Speaker, for one purpose in mind: to make this country a better place. And for that I am eternally grateful. Dean has not only been a great mentor

and a great resource for me here; he's turn into a great friend. And we have talked a little bit of everything from policy to procedures, but also a lot of football too.

And, Dean, I thank you for all you do. You exemplify what makes this Nation great. People are willing to give up careers in private service to serve their Nation in public service, and you have done that incredibly well. I commend you for that and thank you as a friend.

#### CONGRATULATING DEAN AGUILLEN

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with all the others who have spoken tonight about Dean Aguillen and his service to this Chamber.

Ten years is a long time. It's no surprise that Dean rose through the ranks and was counted on by so many. I got to know him, as you've heard, in those early days. We were elected last November. We came in here, and it was like drinking out of a firehose, trying to absorb everything.

And everywhere we turned, Dean, you were there as a calming influence and continued in that role over time in the Chamber, in the hallways, on the phone, always a resource when we needed it.

So I wish you the very best. I know you go on to great things, whatever you choose to pursue. I know you will be taking with you a tremendous amount of knowledge and expertise and skills away from this Chamber. But I also know that you've shared it with so many that the benefits of what you brought to this Chamber will continue for years and years to come. So congratulations on your service.

#### IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION TO DEAN AGUILLEN

(Mr. GONZALEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have known Dean for a number of years, and we share a passion for the Spurs and he's homegrown, San Antonio.

And Dean will tell you the story that his interest in politics was a result of watching my father, the late Henry B. Gonzalez, on Sundays when Dean was just a little boy. Now, I remember watching Dad. I was a lot older. But the thing was they didn't exactly give my father prime time. It was very early on Sunday mornings. And the reason that many of the children in San Antonio watched my father was that he came on right before the cartoons.

So, Dean, I'm on to you. I know exactly why you were watching the television, and I'm glad that you watched Dad before the cartoons.

Dean had the hardest job of anyone on Speaker PELOSI's staff. Every Thursday at 11:30, he would report to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus weekly luncheon meeting, at which time we were able to express ourselves and say many things that we couldn't say to the Speaker. We are confident that he conveyed some of it in more diplomatic terms.

But, seriously, I think he took our message back to the Speaker. He was the conduit. The Speaker can't be in 200 places at one time, though we wish she could. So Dean was a very valuable player, obviously, in this whole organization and made, I believe, the Speaker's Office much more responsive to the needs of so many different Members of our very, very diverse caucus.

And for that, Dean, we extend our grateful appreciation. We wish you well, but we have a sense that we are going to be seeing you, of course, and I am definitely going to see you when the Spurs are in the championship round again.

#### FAREWELL AND GODSPEED TO DEAN AGUILLEN

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to stand here tonight and say farewell to a very dear friend.

Dean Aguillen has had a tremendous impact on my life. I have a legislative director that he recommended who has done a stellar job. And while I am sure he has been helpful to many and probably a little bit more helpful to some than others, I think he deserves the title of a real live angel in the House of Representatives.

And "while some measure their lives by days and years, others by heart-throbs, passions, and tears, the surest measure under God's sun is what for others in your lifetime have you done."

Dean, I thank you for what you have done for others in your lifetime. God bless you.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO ELESTINE NORMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.